

a flexible surface;

a matrix of rods for contouring said flexible surface to a desired shape,

wherein said flexible surface is supported by the tips of said rods and each rod of said rods is movable in a vertical direction against said flexible surface and is locked in position when elevated to a predetermined position, and

wherein each rod of said rods is fitted with two pneumatically controlled locks, which release a particular rod to move freely by coincident addressing; and

an elevator, on which rest the bottom ends of said rods which are unlocked.

Claims 10-11. (original)

Claim 12. (currently amended) The reconfigurable surface as described in claim [3] 9, further comprising inflatable tubes to serve as brakes to lock the rods in position when inflated.

Claim 13-15 (original)

Claims 16-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (original)

Claim 19. (currently amended) A reconfigurable surface [as described in claim 1], comprising:

a flexible surface; and

a matrix of rods for contouring said flexible surface to a desired shape, wherein said flexible surface is [air] formed by the tips of said rods.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21. (currently amended) A reconfigurable surface [as described in claim 20, further comprising], comprising:

a flexible surface;

a matrix of rods for contouring said flexible surface to a desired shape,

wherein the reconfigurable surface serves as screen in an image projection system; and

geographical features are optically [are] projected from a projector onto said flexible surface, and computer means to correct the offset of horizontal positioning of said features due to the topology of said flexible surface.

REMARKS

On paragraph of the Specification has been modified. Claim 12 has been amended. Claims 1-6, 16-18 and 20 have been canceled.

The Examiner objected to the drawings in that "the element 52 in the drawing...not mentioned in the description" This objection is overcome by adding at the second line of page 4 --of a screen 52--.

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite, citing that the phrase "wherein said flexible surface is air" is indefinite. The claim has been amended to be an independent claim and the word "air" has been replaced by --formed by tips of said rods--. It is believed that the amended claim is no longer indefinite.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Gates. Claim 1-3, 5-6, 16-17 and 20 have been canceled. The Examiner cited that Gates disclosed in column 5, lines 48-54 that "said flexible surface (32) is sucked against said tips". An examination of Gates patent does not reveal such a disclosure, and nowhere did Gates quote the use of suction or gravity. Nor did Gates suggest air as the flexible surface. Therefore, it is requested that the rejection claims 7, 18 and 19 be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gates. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claim 21 was dependent on a canceled claim 20, which depends on another canceled claim 1. By rewriting claim 21 as an independent claim, it is believed that claim 21 is no longer unpatentable.

Claim 12 has been amended, because it depended on a canceled claim 3.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 7-15, 18-19 and 21, as amended, be allowed.

Reexamination of the objections and rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 7-15, 18-19 and 21 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

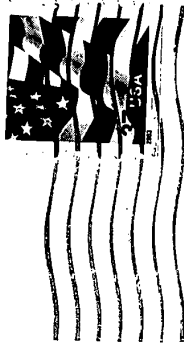
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